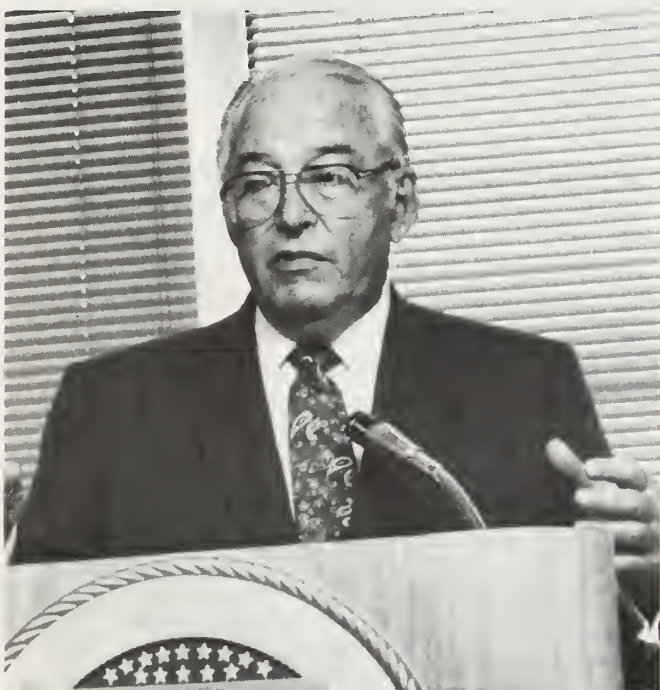


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Secretary Lyng Visits FNS

"I've been proud of my affiliation with the Food and Nutrition Service," said Secretary Richard E. Lyng to an all employee session at Park Center on June 12.



The Secretary went on to say, "I think you who are a part of FNS should be proud that you're working in an agency that is performing a remarkable service. There is nothing like it in the world. It's a mammoth undertaking with a country the size of ours to try to see to it that we eliminate poverty-caused hunger and malnutrition. And that has been the goal of this agency ever since it was formed. I think you are doing a good job."

Prior to Secretary Lyng's address to FNS employees, Assistant Secretary John W. Bode, Administrator Anna Kondratas, and Associate Administrator Sonia Crow escorted Lyng on a tour of several FNS offices.

On his tour through the Nutrition and Technical Services Division, the Secretary participated in a taste-test of commodity foods prepared by nutritionists from the Technical Assistance Branch.

Rotini (spiral macaroni) was presented as a new commodity for school salad bars. Other donated foods featured were canned refried beans made with vegetable oil and 100 percent beef patties.



Left to right: Administrator Kondratas, Assistant Secretary Bode, Secretary Lyng, and Deputy Administrator for Special Nutrition Programs George Braley visit NTS' kitchen to sample some prepared commodities.

Lyng continued his tour to the Administrative Integrity Branch, Family Nutrition Programs, where staff demonstrated the computer program used to calculate the Quality Control fiscal sanction liabilities. The program compares a state's error rate to its

(Lyng continued page 3)

Child Nutrition Advisory Council Holds Its 31st Meeting

The National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition held its 31st meeting on June 2-4 in Arlington, Virginia. Administrator Anna Kondratas welcomed the Council members and gave them an overview of the Child Nutrition Programs. She commended the Council for its interest in ensuring that the programs first serve those in economic need and for its open and creative attitude in dealing with the problems of benefit duplication, benefit targeting and state autonomy as evidenced by their past recommendations. In closing, she stated, "We need to know all we can about the various groups affected by the Child Nutrition Programs, whether they are participants or others who are associated with the programs. These meetings are therefore very helpful, because we can exchange information and benefit from each others perspectives. In managing the programs, we must make decisions--and the more information we have, the better these decisions will be."



Administrator Anna Kondratas (right) addresses the Child Nutrition Advisory Council along with Stan Garnett (center), assistant deputy administrator for Special Nutrition Programs, and Sam Bauer, director, Child Nutrition Division.

Assistant Secretary John W. Bode addressed the group on the following day emphasizing the Administration's goal of targeting benefits to those most in need and reducing nonessential Federal spending. Bode also discussed the Administration's welfare reform proposal which is directed toward looking at the 59 different benefit programs which are administered by eight different Federal departments with a view toward a more systematic approach which will allow the states more flexibility in administering these programs. He went on to say that there is a need to integrate the programs and eliminate much of the bureaucracy and duplication of information required of applicants.

The 19-member Council, whose function is to make a continuing study of the operations of the Child Nutrition Programs with a view to determining how the programs may be improved, made seven recommendations for consideration at next year's meeting.



Child Nutrition Advisory Council members (left to right) Al Falatko, U.S. Department of Education; Peggy Hidey, child development specialist; and John Magnarelli, MARO Special Nutrition Programs director, listen intently to discussions.

-Story by Child Nutrition Division
Photos by Paul Rowen
Public Information Staff

(Lyng continued from page 1)

error rate goal and calculates the amount which states may be sanctioned.



Duane Maddox (seated), FNP, demonstrates to Secretary Lyng, his staff, and FNS staffers, the computer program used to calculate quality control sanction liabilities.

In addition, Secretary Lyng shared some reminiscences of college days with George Frazier of the Accounting Division. The Secretary was a senior at the University of Notre Dame when Frazier began his freshman year. Both Lyng and Frazier are graduates of the College of Commerce at Notre Dame.



Secretary Lyng (right) reminisces with George Frazier, AC, about college days at the University of Notre Dame.

The Secretary closed his remarks by congratulating the FNS employees who

received awards at the Department's Honor Awards ceremony.

-Story by Beverly Westmoreland
Photos by Larry Rana
Public Information Staff

A Man And His Horse

The food stamp staff in the Mountain Plains Region has an employee with a novel avocation. Maurice Wade is a rodeo cowboy, a daredevil calf roper on the Black Rodeo circuit in his spare time.

MPRO staffers participated in a raffle recently and one of the prizes was a horseback ride donated by Wade. Public Affairs secretary Lou Lane won the ride but graciously yielded to her colleague Joanne Widner, who spent a couple of hours watching Wade practice calf roping and taking a ride herself.

Wade's hobby involves not only his own skill and strength, but that of his horse Billy Bob, a gentle sorrel quarter horse. As the calf is herded into the chute, Wade psychs Billy Bob for the chase. When the gate is opened, hooves fly and the pair pursue their target. He wins a few and loses a few, but practice is improving his performance. And he's the first to give much of the credit to the well-disciplined Billy Bob.



-Story and Photo by Joanne Widner
MPRO Public Affairs Staff

On the Hill



On July 21, Senator Moynihan (D-NY) introduced S.1511, the Family Security Act of 1987, a major welfare reform bill expected to attract considerable interest. Moynihan's bill would replace AFDC with a new Child Support Supplement (CSS). Major provisions include:

- Mandatory wage withholding of court-ordered child support payments.
- Uniform state guidelines for the amount of child support a judge would be mandated to award.
- Paternity tests and the collection of social security numbers and wage data from parents when a child is born.
- Required participants in an employment and training program for mothers with no children under 3 (states could reduce this to 1).
- Custodial parents under the age of 22 who have not completed high school would be required to finish school.
- Single parents under the age of 18 would be required to live at home with their parents as a condition of getting CSS payments.

In addition, the bill authorizes demonstration projects, extends benefits to children whose parents live together, and would provide transitional Medicaid and child care assistance for parents who leave the welfare rolls.

On July 22, the full Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources reported for Senate consideration S.887, the Older Americans Act reauthorization. Below is a comparison of S.887 with H.R. 1451, the House companion bill, as passed by the House on May 28:

Nutrition Professor to Aid MPRO

A project to coordinate nutrition services on Indian reservations which was developed by MPRO Nutrition Director Esther Eicher will be evaluated by a professor from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC).

Eicher worked with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota to encourage communication between providers of nutrition education—such as the Indian Health Service, tribal councils, WIC programs, and community colleges—to eliminate conflicting or confusing information. UNC Professor Elisabeth Wirick will study the model developed by Eicher and make recommendations for improvements or alternative approaches.

Wirick will be able to incorporate the results of her work into UNC classes to increase students' knowledge of the Native American culture and to advocate that UNC dietetic majors explore employment on reservations. The two nutritionists hope that the refined study model can be adapted to other reservations across the country. Wirick expects to publish a report on her results and develop a presentation for a nutritionists. She will visit reservations in South Dakota and possibly Montana or Wyoming during a 7-week period.

Wirick has previous experience with FNS programs and has involved her students in programs at the local level. Under a regional office-administered NET Program grant, she wrote newsletters for private schools. She also traveled for the Colorado Department of Education NET Program, conducting workshops for food service staff, teachers, and school administrators on how to integrate nutrition education into school curricula. Wirick was formerly a fellow at the University of Iowa Medical School, where she studied infant and child nutrition.

Kondratas Meets NERO State Food Stamp Commissioners

Administrator Anna Kondratas met and exchanged views on welfare reform with Northeast Region state food stamp commissioners on May 22. The states' intense interest was reflected in the questions and frank reactions concerning various reform proposals. Kondratas sounded out the concerns and objectives and invited further discussions or proposals for FNS consideration. Several of the commissioners have followed through informally since that meeting to explore ways in which the Food Stamp Program can complement state-specific reform initiatives.

In conjunction, NERO hosted the Operation Awareness conference on May 20-22 entitled "Local Heroes." The purpose of the conference was to bring together the best of local office staff from states throughout the region. Representatives from each state highlighted local success stories and encouraged other attendees to adapt the ideas and to look for ways to improve the Food Stamp Program in individual states.



NERO Regional Administrator Harry McLean welcomes Administrator Anna Kondratas to the NERO Operation Awareness conference in Boston.

At the awards dinner, Kondratas spoke of the future of welfare reform with specific emphasis on local agency interests. She presented awards to conference participants from each state to honor individual activities in improving program operations.

The feedback was very positive, and many attendees commented that the conference provided an effective forum to meet and discuss the common problems local office staff face. Several commissioners have also confirmed that representatives returned with renewed motivation and satisfaction at the Federal interest in their efforts. It is expected that the channels of communication opened by the conference will further enhance program operations in all states.



Left to right: Kathleen Sgambati, director of Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, and M. Mary Mongan, commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, both from New Hampshire, have an informal discussion of food stamp issues with Administrator Anna Kondratas.

-Story and Photos by
NERO Public Affairs Staff

(Hill continued from page 4)

Comparison of H.R. 1451 (as passed by the House on 5/28/87)
and S.887 (as reported by full Senate Committee on 6/22/87)

<u>PROVISION</u>	<u>HOUSE</u>	<u>SENATE</u>
Authorization	Reauthorizes the Older Americans Act through 1991. Authorization levels: 1988 - \$151 million 1989 - \$166 million 1990 - \$183 million 1991 - \$201 million - allows a 10 percent increase in funding each year from 1987. Freezes the per meal reimbursement rate at 56.76 cents.	Reauthorizes the Older Americans Act through 1992. Authorization levels: 1988 - \$151 million 1989 - \$166 million 1990 - \$183 million 1991 - \$201 million 1992 - \$221 million Same Same
Outreach	Includes \$25 million for outreach and application assistance for low-income elderly for SSI, Medicaid, and Food Stamp Program benefits effective October 1, 1987.	Includes \$3 million in FY 1988 to elderly SSI, Medicaid, and Food Stamp eligibles and such sums as necessary for the 4 succeeding fiscal years.
Child Care Food Program (CCFP)	Includes a provision that amends the National School Lunch Act by allowing adult day care centers to participate in CCFP.	No provision.
Food Stamp Program	No provision.	Prohibits funds received by eligible individuals under Title V of the Older Americans Act (Community Service Employment for Older Americans) from being considered as income for purposes of determining eligibility under the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

Correction

The effective date for the new Federal travel allowances is August 1, 1987.

-Story by Frank Ippolito
Governmental Affairs Staff

Food Programs Participation Update

Following are preliminary estimates of participation in the Federal-State food assistance programs for the month of May with comparisons to the previous month and to the same month of last year.

	<u>May 1986</u>	<u>Apr. 1987</u>	<u>May 1987 2/</u>
<u>Food Stamp Program: 1/</u>			
People participating (mil.)	19.6	19.6	19.2
Value of bonus coupons (\$ mil.)	890.4	901.3	880.8
Average bonus per person	\$ 45.52	\$ 46.04	\$ 45.76
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	981.3	997.7	977.1
<u>National School Lunch Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	89.9	90.0	90.0
Children participating (mil.)	23.1	24.1	23.6
Children reached with free or reduced price lunches (mil.)	11.3	11.8	11.6
Percentage of lunches served free	42.3	42.0	42.0
Percentage of lunches served at reduced price	6.5	6.6	6.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	366.8	334.2	376.4
<u>School Breakfast Program:</u>			
Number of schools participating (thous.)	35.2	37.1	37.1
Children participating (mil.)	3.5	3.7	3.6
Percentage of breakfasts served free or at reduced price	88.1	88.1	88.1
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	46.6	45.4	51.3
<u>Child Care Food Program:</u>			
Number of meals served in centers (mil.)	37.2	40.2	37.8
Number of meals served in homes (mil.)	24.6	27.3	26.7
Percentage of all meals served free	77.6	77.7	77.6
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	43.3	49.1	47.0
<u>Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC):</u>			
People participating (mil.)	3.3	3.5	3.4
Food cost (\$ mil.)	105.5	114.5	113.8
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	131.5	141.6	139.3
<u>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: 3/</u>			
People participating (thous.)	134.6	153.3	151.7
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	2.4	2.7	2.7
<u>Food Distribution to Indians and Needy Families:</u>			
Number of projects in operation	104	106	106
People participating (thous.)	143.3	145.5	141.5
Total program cost (\$ mil.)	3.9	4.2	4.2
<u>Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program:</u>			
Total USDA cost (\$ mil.)	72.2	66.6	75.3

1/ Puerto Rico has been excluded from all months.

2/ Data collected as of July 22, 1987.

3/ Includes data for Commodity Elderly as of January 1987.

Job Opportunities

FNS is seeking to fill the following vacant positions. To be considered for one of them, submit an up-to-date SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and current performance appraisal to the appropriate personnel office. If you're interested in a Headquarters position, apply to the Employment Branch, Personnel Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alexan-

dria, Virginia 22302. Apply directly to Headquarters office for all GM-14 and 15 positions. For Regional positions, directly to the Regional Office. For details on the requirements for any of the positions listed below, consult the official vacancy announcement. These are posted on designated bulletin boards or you can get copies from the appropriate Regional or Headquarters personnel office.

Friday Letter Vacancy Listing By Vacancy Number

JOB TITLE	AREA OF CONSID.	SERIES	GRADE	CLOSING DATE	VACANCY NUMBER	OFFICE LOCATION
o Clerk/Typist	(L)	GS-322	2/3/4	Open until filled	86-35	FNS
o Secretary Typing	(A)	GS-318	4/5/6	Open Continuous	87-999	Various Locations
o Procurement Analyst	(G)	GS-1102	12/13	08/17/87	87-86	ASD
o Supvry Contract Specist	(A)	GM-1102	14	08/17/87	87-88	ASD
o Food Prog Specist	(G)	GS-0120	9	08/10/87	87-91	CND
o Supvry Food Prog Specist	(A)	GM-0120	14	08/10/87	87-93	PDD
o Supvry Contr Specist	(G)	GM-1102	13	08/24/87	87-95	ASD
o Pers Mgmt Specist	(USDA)	GS-0201	12	08/17/87	87-96	PED
o Accounting Techncn	(FNS-H)	GS-0525	7	08/17/87	87-97	ACD
o Management Asst	(FNS-H)	GS-0344	7	08/17/87	87-98	ARD
o Nutritionist	(A)	GS-0630	12/13	08/24/87	87-H-07	HNIS
o Supvry Nutritionist	(A)	GM-0630	14	08/24/87	87-H-08	HNIS

ACD ~ Accounting Division
 ARD ~ Administrative Review Division
 ASD ~ Administrative Services Division
 CND ~ Child Nutrition Division
 FNS ~ Food and Nutrition Service
 HNIS ~ Human Nutrition Information Service
 PAD ~ Program Accountability Division
 PED ~ Personnel Division
 PDD ~ Program Development Division

Area of Consideration

(FNS H) ~ FNS Headquarters
 (FNS N) ~ FNS Nationwide
 (USDA) ~ USDA
 (G) ~ Governmentwide
 (A) ~ All Sources
 (L) ~ Local Commuting Area

Thrift Savings Plan

More than 27 percent of employees covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) have elected to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan. This data reflects the number of elections made prior to the April 30, 1987 closing date for the first open season for sign-ups. The Federal Retirement Investment Board announced

that 151,279, or 27.2 percent of the 556,876 FERS employees, were signed up in the initial enrollment period. More than 274,231 Civil Service employees have open accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan.

The Plan's assets as of June 10, 1987 totaled \$292.3 million. The next open season to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan will begin on November 15, 1987.